



The Norman Bird Flyer

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4 NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY, THIRD BEACH ROAD, MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND 02840 PHONE 401-846-2577 *

KESTREL

Fall 1982

Sometimes the urge to meddle is irresistible. On June 12, a fuzzy, golf ball-sized kestrel was brought to the Sanctuary. It had been blown out of a tree onto a field the night before and was cold and hungry, but still alive. In its own web of life it was a small package of protein for a hungry fox or raccoon, but the staff intervened and pulled the kestrel temporarily from its web of life, (breaking a few strands in doing so).

Raising a kestrel is easier than raising a robin or wild rabbit, but because it eats so much and so frequently, it is more time consuming. Wild hawks need fresh wild protein food with feathers, fur, bones, and blood included. A diet of hamburger or dogfood leads to crop infection and vitamin deficiencies. At first the bones and fur need to be removed, but as the kestrel's body contour feathers and flight feathers begin coming in, fur and bones should be included.

Tame kestrels, like all tame wild animals are at a disadvantage in the wild. Not knowing what to eat, what to hide from, or how to behave true to the species are problems that can kill a hand-fed bird.

Kestrels have long been tagged with the common name, sparrow hawk, in the mistaken belief that they prey primarily on sparrows. In fact, two thirds of a kestrel's diet is insects. In the winter, when insects aren't available, kestrels will take an occasional sparrow, but even then their preference is for small mammals rather than birds. In order to catch small insects, a kestrel's eyesight must be extraordinarily keen. Experiments have shown that kestrels can discern figures equivalent to those on the top line of an eye chart from up to 100 feet away.

Our kestrel's first days outside were spent in the vegetable garden sunning, snapping at insects and constantly screaming. The screaming behavior is common in hand-reared raptors who experienced deep hunger when still young.

Hazards existed for the young bird even in the garden. An adult kestrel resented the young bird's presence and dove at it and nearly snatched it up. Robins and swallows dove and scolded continually.

The kestrel's first flights were long jumps with a flap or two from fence post to post. Within a few days he was up in the tops of spruce trees and perched up on the barn gutter. A whistle would bring him down if he was hungry,



KESTREL continued

and if he was hungry, you could hear his screaming long before you could see him. Once during rainy weather the kestrel spent a whole day in the barn, refusing all our coaxings to leave, while he busily picked off spiders. Gradually he became more wary of people as he came to understand that he was a wild bird.

The Norman Bird Sanctuary does not have the staff or facilities to care for the many injured and orphaned animals reported every day, but it can act as an information center for people who have come across an injured wild animal, helping them make a decision about the appropriate action to take.

The few animals that are kept or raised teach us a lot and give a sense of the interdependence of all wild animals, their habitats, and people. This summer Sanctuary staff cared for a young red-tailed hawk, a mallard duck, a marsh hawk, and many robins, among others. The best learning, though, occurs while quietly observing wild animals in their own realm.

September began a season of movement South. Our kestrel left in early September, perhaps to go South, or maybe, having finally learned how to fully provide for itself, it remains in the area in a web not so distant from ours.



Feeding a hand-reared kestrel

NATURE CLUB



Is there an alternative to Saturday morning cartoons? Yes! This fall the Sanctuary is offering a Nature Club program for children in grades K - 6.

Based on our summer Nature Day Camp, the Nature Club will introduce children to the ecology of our area through a variety of crafts, projects and games. Children will participate in Sanctuary projects such as wild animal care and wildlife habitat management, as well as taking part in such activities as hiking, plant and insect study, paper making, natural dyeing, and wild edibles. Our college trained staff will emphasize adventure within safe bounds and group cooperation. The children will be grouped by age. We'll be watching for you!

Saturday mornings - 9:00 - 12:00

Two 5-week sessions:

Session 1: Oct 9-- Nov 6

Session 2: Nov 13- Dec 11

Members: \$20.00/5-week session

Non-members: \$25.00/5-week session

NATURE CLUB RESERVATION FORM

Please enroll my child in the Norman Bird Sanctuary's Nature Club.

Name _____

Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Age _____ Grade _____

Interests _____

Session: _____ Session 1 - Oct 9-Nov 6

_____ Session 2 - Nov 13-Dec

_____ Member _____ Non-member

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please return completed form



...is - Kids grades K-6 singing nature songs, or off to the woods or the marsh for a morning hike!

Nature Day Camp

K-6 playing group games, together, and then, active to the woods or the marsh. We had a great summer!

DOWN: ① We often take hikes to this puddingstone land mark ② group nature games are played here in the _____ where the apple trees grow. ③ Who-o is this great horned creature who hunts only at night? ④ This green weed with the gem-like orange flower is highly valued for its healing qualities on itchy scratches.

ACROSS: ① Be careful not to fall into the turtle-filled Red Maple _____. ② Rabbits - and people! - like to chew on a piece of this long grass. ③ This bright red songbird likes to fly around our goose pen. ④ The majestic red-tailed _____ eats only meat for dinner. ⑤ Our baby duck likes to eat this water plant.

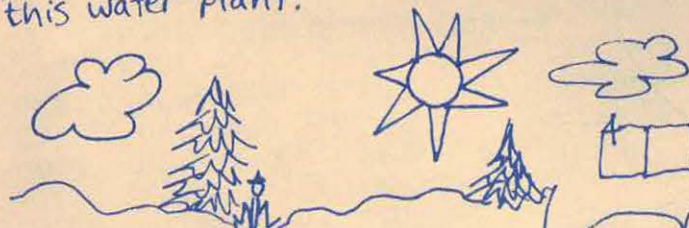
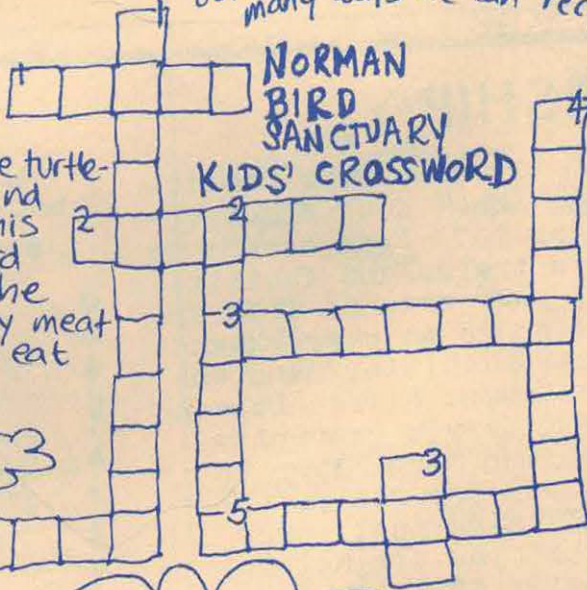


BOTTLE TERRARIUMS!
A fun, easy and educational activity. Just take a two-liter plastic soda bottle - the kind with the black plastic bottom. Remove the clear plastic bottle from the black shell; cut the clear bottle into two parts, top and bottom. There are two styles: either turn the bottom of the clear bottle upside down, for a round-topped terrarium, or use the top part of the clear bottle to make a short, bottle-shaped terrarium. (Be sure to keep the top on tight!) Layer the bottom of the black cup with gravel or small stones, for water percolation. Add some soil. Now, go out to the woods or field and collect your favorite small plants. Be sure to dig them carefully, taking soil with them so as not to disturb their delicate roots. Plant them in your terrarium; add water, snugly insert the clear plastic top; and watch your own little ecosystem circulate air & water - just like the Earth does! Not only are terrariums a wonderful lesson in water cycles, but also making them out of soda bottles reminds us of the many ways we can recycle!

The Hawk

Haiiku by
Melissa Dixon
grade Six

The great white clouds hide
The hawk searching for his prey
flying endlessly.



Nature is all around me.
This is the perfect place and the perfect time to relax, think, and look.

"All the critters got a place in the choir -
Some sing low,
Some sing higher -
Some sing out loud
on the telephone wire -
Some just clap their hands - or paws -
or anything they got now."

James Mann
Grade Seventh

Bill Staines

grades 7-9
Rock cooperation camp

every afternoon, with the log walk, group advanced nature study, and a four-day hike and camp-out, in the wilderness

Summer Challenge

COUNTRY HARVEST

You want to help the Sanctuary, but you aren't sure how? Here's one place where we can really use you! At this year's Harvest Fair we will again be offering a Country Store, complete with home made foods. The profits from this go directly to our fundraising projects and make a tremendous difference. Any foods you can contribute to this effort will be a great help. Please fill out the form below and mail it to: Lou Dwinnell 61 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840 or call Lou at 846-7669. Thanks!



I pledge to bring:

Cake _____	Rolls _____	Pickles _____
Pie _____	Bread _____	Canned tomatoes _____
Cookies _____	Muffins _____	Canned vegetables _____
Fudge _____	Jam _____	Garden produce _____
Brownies _____	Jellies _____	Other _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Baked goods for Saturday _____ for Sunday _____

Please deliver goods directly to the Sanctuary.

Remember to save examples of your best for Fair Contests!



MEMBERSHIP

It is time to renew your Sanctuary membership. What does a membership entitle you to? Free access to the Sanctuary's trails and facilities 7 days a week, year around; free or reduced admission to an ever-expanding host of natural history and environmental programs; a free garden plot in the Sanctuary's community gardens; the Norman Bird Flyer to fill you in on all the goings-on; and the peace of mind that comes from knowing that you are helping to conserve 450 acres of natural beauty for future generations.

Membership dues contribute significantly to our operating budget. Your support is vital. Please watch for your membership form in the mail and return it as soon as you can.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR WHO ISN'T A SANCTUARY MEMBER ?



The Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Road
Middletown, RI 02840

Annual Membership

- Individual...\$10	- Business...\$30
- Family.....\$15	- Patron....\$100
- Sustaining...\$25	- Life.....\$1000

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contributions and membership dues are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.



NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY NATURE DAY CAMP KID'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS!

Down	Across
1) Hanging Rock	1) Swamp
2) Orchard	2) Timothy
3) Owl	3) Cardinal
4) Jewelweed	4) Hawk
	5) Duckweed

The Norman Bird Flyer is published by the Norman Bird Sanctuary, a non-profit nature preserve established under the will of Mabel Norman Cerio.
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ACID RAIN

One most hears of acid rain's effects on fish life in northern New England's lakes and ponds, but this environmentally disastrous condition is not restricted to northern New England nor is it harmful just to fish.

Acid rain occurs when the sulfurous and nitrogenous emissions from fossil fueled power plants combine with air and water. The acids formed bind with water molecules and fall to earth. Acid rain lowers the pH of ponds and lakes to a point dangerous to fish and any other life form which spends part or all of its life in the water.

In the case of fish, acid rain causes a depletion of calcium. The muscles stay strong, yet the bones deteriorate, causing physical deformity and death. Acidity also causes the release of aluminum from surrounding soils. It clogs the gills of fish, causing death. More importantly, high acid rates cause a reproductive failures, low egg hatching rates and high fry mortality.

In the case of salamanders and frogs, 80% or more of the eggs may fail to hatch in low pH water, compared to a normal failure rate of 5-10%. These organisms play an essential role at the base of the food chain, and are a good indication that things are most likely amiss farther up the food chain.

Rhode Island's Hope Valley ponds have shown less productivity, disrupted food chains, fewer fish per acre, and lowered spawning and early life survival. Rhode Island's ponds have pH's as low as 4.5 after heavy spring rains, just the time when frogs and salamanders are laying eggs. The pH of vinegar is 3.5.

How can you fight a problem like acid rain? Being aware of the problem is an important first step. Talking about it with friends is the second step. Finally, giving support to organizations lobbying for stronger emissions controls and conducting acid rain research is an important third step.



* 8th Annual AQUIDNECK ISLAND HARVEST FAIR *

10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Famous Mud Pit

Cider Pressing

*Egg Toss
Energy Exhibits*

Crafts of all Descriptions

*Shooting the
Magnificent*

Farm Animals

Vaudeville

*Plea
Market*

*Food & Drink to Suit any
Appetite*

Coconut Throw

Home & Garden Competition

Poetry Readings

*Pony Rides
Monkey Bridge*

Country Store

Blue Grass Band

Giant Bell Ringer

Fun? You Bet!

OCT. 2-3

"BEAUTY AS WELL AS BREAD"

"From the lowlands we climbed to the top of one of the ridges where the entire group had a close-up view of black-crowned night herons, at the edge of the small marshy pond below. A fine red shouldered hawk showed briefly against the background of another ridge."

On June 8, 1953 a group of interested sanctuary neighbors met to form a sanctuary committee. None had much experience or knowledge of refuges, but all shared a common concern for the land and the preservation of its natural values. Mrs. Allan G. Davenport, who wrote the words in the above quote after the first official sanctuary bird walk, was among those at the meeting. The committee's first chairman, William Drury, at whose house that first gathering was held, ended the session with something to the effect of, "Well, let's get out and learn all we can about refuges now."

And there was a lot to learn. The conservation movement, though not more than 60 years old, had developed and diversified. There were many ways to go in land use. Land could be preserved, untouched and unspoiled. Land could be conserved for multiple natural resource uses, including propagation of wildlife, or land could be used to demonstrate and educate.

At the turn of the century Gifford Pinchot, founder of the Forest Service summed up one alternative view of land use when he described a national conservation policy that should, "Take every part of the land and its resources and put it to that use in which it will best serve the most people."

John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club and spokesman for preservationists, summed up an opposing doctrine: "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul."

The basis for the sanctuary's land use policy would obviously fit more closely into John Muir's vision of land use. Luckily Roland Clement, then director of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, was at that first meeting to help decide just how.

Clement pointed out that refuges are formed for two main reasons:

a) To preserve and protect something geographically or biologically unique, b) To serve as a wildlife preserve and public education center. The Norman Bird Sanctuary's objectives should fall under the second category, he felt, and the sanctuary committee agreed.

We have, then, a refuge where natural appreciation can be cultivated and encouraged in the young and old. To watch a hawk and learn at the same time something special about the way it lives is to care always, if even just a little, about them.

The sanctuary cordially extends an invitation to all.



Norman Bird Sanctuary Events

MEMBERS' WORK DAY October 23, All day. Join us any time all day for some old-fashioned pitching in! The trails, the wildlife habitats and membership drive envelope stuffing will be our target projects. Bring a lunch - we'll provide drinks.

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND ENCHANTED FOREST October 31 2:00-4:00
Halloween festivities for children and kindred adult spirits. Games, fortune telling, a trip through the enchanted forest and much more! Costumes a must. Members 50¢ Others \$1

NATURAL HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

ACID RAIN - NO UMBRELLA FOR WILDLIFE November 3, 7:30
THE OSPREY - A GRADUAL COMEBACK December 1 7:30
Members \$1 Non-Members \$2

STAR WALKS October 13, November 15, and December 14 7:30
The night sky in Autumn! The great bear dips low to the earth, looking for a place to hibernate, while Andromeda, our distant sister galaxy rises high into the sky, visible to all with a keen eye. We'll explore these and others as the crisp night air moves in. Bring a blanket to sit on and binoculars if you have them. Doubtfull weather call 846-2577.

BIRD WALKS Every Sunday 8:00 am Join us for a leisurely morning stroll as we search for those elusive fall warblers and others. Beginners and experts alike welcomed. Bring binoculars if you have them.

HAWK WATCH September 26 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Join us for as much of the day as you can, as we record this year's flood of hawks. South. Bring Bino-culars if possible, and a lunch.



SANCTUARY FERNS WALK Sept. 19 2:00

SHORE WALK Oct. 24 2:00

ATTRACTING WILDLIFE Nov. 14 2:00

BIRDS OF PREY Nov. 28 2:00

FALL FOLIAGE HIKE Oct. 17 2:00

SNAKE PROGRAM Nov. 7 2:00

MAMMAL SINGS Nov. 21 2:00

NATURE'S TOYCHEST Dec. 5 2:00

HOLIDAY WREATHS Make your own from natural materials. December 12 2:00
Members \$5.00 Non-Members \$7.00

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP IN FALL WILDFLOWERS

Tuesday evenings 7-9 pm
Five Sessions

September 28 - October 26

Registration required

Call 846-2577 by September 25

\$20.00

Lucia de Leiris

MEDICINAL USE OF PLANTS

October 10 11:00-3:00

A cram-packed day-long wor covering principals of herbal medecine, plant identification and harvesting, her al prepara-tions, and herbs for family use. Bring a lunch.

Hap Morgan

What's Happening at the Bird Sanctuary?

SEPTEMBER 19 BIRD WALK 8 AM SANCTUARY FERNS 2:00	20	21	22 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX DAY AND NIGHT EQUAL IN LENGTH	23	24 ● FIRST QUARTER	DOCENT TRAINING 9:00 - 1:00
BIRD WALK 8 AM 26 HAWK WATCH 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	27	28	29	30	OCTOBER 1	HARVEST FAIR 2 DINNER DANCE ● FULL MOON
HARVEST FAIR 3 ALL DAY	4	5	6	7	8	NATURE CLUB 9 SESSION #1 9:00-12:00 ● LAST QUARTER
BIRD WALK 8 AM 10 MEDICINAL USE OF PLANTS 11:00 - 3:00	COLUMBUS DAY SANCTUARY OPEN 11	12	13 STAR WALK 7:30 PM	14	15	● NEW MOON 16
BIRD WALK 8 AM 17 FALL FOLIAGE WALK 2:00	18	19	20	21	22	MEMBERS' 23 WORK DAY 9:00-5:00 WE NEED YOU!!
BIRD WALK 8 AM 24 SHORE WALK 2:00 ● FIRST QUARTER	25	26	27	28	29	30
BIRD WALK 8 AM 31 HALLOWEEN PARTY & ENCHANTED FOREST 2:00 - 4:00	NOVEMBER 1 ● FULL MOON	2 ELECTION DAY	3 NATURAL HISTORY LECTURE SERIES ACID RAIN AND WILDLIFE 7:30	4	5	6
BIRD WALK 8 AM 7 SNAKE PROGRAM 2:00	8	9	10	11	12	NATURE CLUB 13 SESSION #2 9:00 - 12:00
BIRD WALK 8 AM 14 HOW TO ATTRACT WILDLIFE TO YOUR YARD 2:00	15 STAR WALK 7:30 ● NEW MOON	16	17	18	19	20
BIRD WALK 8 AM 21 MAMMAL SIGNS 2:00	22	23	24	25 THANKS GIVING SANCTUARY CLOSED	26	27
BIRD WALK 8 AM 28 BIRDS OF PREY 2:00	29	30 ● FULL MOON	DECEMBER 1 NATURAL HISTORY LECTURE SERIES	2	3	4
BIRD WALK 8 AM 5 NATURE'S TOYCHEST 2:00	6	7	8	9	10	11
BIRD WALK 8 AM 12 HOLIDAY WREATHS 2:00	13	14 STAR WALK 7:30 ● NEW MOON	15	16	17	18 CHANUKAH

NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY
Third Beach Road
Middletown, Rhode Island

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